

Congressman Jesse Jackson, Jr., acknowledging Special Counsel Patrick Fitzgerald's indictment of Bush Administration official and Vice President Dick Cheney's Chief of Staff I. Lewis "Scooter" Libby on grounds of making false statements, obstruction of justice and perjury said, "President Bush must go on record and say that he will allow the legal process to run its full and natural course and that he will *not* pardon his friend Lewis Libby at the end if he is found guilty in a court of law. This indictment reflects that we are a nation of laws and no one is above the law - especially those in powerful positions. These indictments reflect an administration so hell-bent on going to war that they would stop at nothing to carry out their policy. We also need to know the connection between Vice President Dick Cheney and the leaking of Valeria Plame's name.

"This indictment is the result of a vicious and vengeful effort to discredit and destroy Valerie Plame's husband, Ambassador Joseph Wilson, who criticized and challenged the Bush Administration's justification for war against Iraq.

"President Bush's current focus has been on getting his second term's political and legislative agenda back on track, but President Bush must first rehabilitate and reinforce his moral authority. Texas Governor George W. Bush said during his 2000 presidential campaign: 'In my administration we will ask not only what is legal but what is right; not just what the lawyers allow, but what the public deserves. In my administration we'll make it clear that there's the controlling legal authority of conscience.' President Bush and his administration have fallen far short of that pledge.

"This is a very serious issue! The action of outing CIA operative Valerie Plame threatened her life and the life anyone she ever came in contact with. We literally have no idea who, at this very moment, may be paying the price for this tawdry and politically motivated leak," Jackson concluded.